

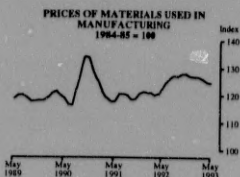
Thursday, 29 July 1993

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statistics



Manufacturing materials prices

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries fell by 0.2 per cent in May 1993, the sixth consecutive month in which the index has recorded a decrease or no change.

While prices for home produced materials fell (1.0%), imported materials prices rose by 0.8 per cent. This increase was largely due to a fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies during May.

The main contributors to the increase in the imported materials index were components for machinery and equipment, and chemicals and chemical based materials.

Lower prices for live animals and crude petroleum were the main contributors to the decrease in the home produced materials index in May.

Between May 1992 and May 1993, prices of manufacturing materials increased by 1.7 per cent — the smallest annual increase since March 1992.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, MAY 1993
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	0.8	5.2
Home produced	-1.0	-0.2
All manufacturing	-0.2	1.7

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Mining indicators fall in 1991-92

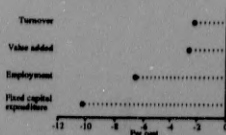
Turnover in the mining industry in 1991-92 was \$28,217 million, a fall of just over 2 per cent compared with 1990-91. The decrease was primarily due to the easing of the effects of revenue increases arising from the Gulf War, particularly in the oil and gas extraction industry. The industries with the largest contributions to turnover were: coal mining, \$8,769 million (31%); oil and gas extraction, \$8,213 million (29%); and gold ore mining, \$3,861 million (14%).

Value added fell by \$537 million (3%) to \$19,631 million in 1991-92. The gold, and oil and gas industries contributed most to this fall, declining by \$584 million and \$441 million respectively. These falls were offset by increased value added in the coal and iron ore mining industries.

Capital expenditure less disposals fell by \$422 million (10%) to \$3,663 million in 1991-92. The oil and gas industry increased expenditure by 69 per cent, but this was offset by decreased expenditure in the coal (47%) and gold mining (36%) industries.

Continued ...

SELECTED MINING INDICATORS
Percentage change 1990-91 to 1991-92



Employment at 30 June 1992 fell by 7 per cent from 65,776 persons in 1990-91 to 61,352 persons in 1991-92. In contrast, wages and salaries fell by only 3 per cent from \$3,550 million in 1990-91 to \$3,457 million in 1991-92. This was mainly due to the costs of termination packages to redundant staff. The coal mining industry had 45 per cent of all mining employees.

Western Australia accounted for 37 per cent, or \$10,404 million of the national mining industry turnover in 1991-92. Queensland with a turnover of \$6,516 million (23%) and New South Wales with \$4,482 million (16%) were ranked second and third respectively.

Detailed industry statistics will be provided in *Mining Industry, Australia* (8402.0) to be issued shortly.

For further information, order the publication *Mining Industry, Australia*, Preliminary(8401.0), or contact Andrew Middleton on (08) 237 7539.

Dollar raises import prices

The Import Price Index rose by 1.3 per cent in May 1993.

The fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies led to price rises in a range of items.

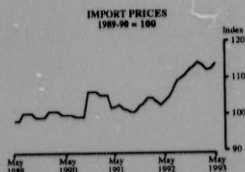
The most significant increases were for machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods classified by material and for miscellaneous manufactured articles.

Between May 1992 and May 1993 the index increased by 9.8 per cent.

Price changes for selected items are shown below.

IMPORT PRICES, MAY 1993
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Commodities and transactions	9.0	18.5
Crude materials	3.7	17.1
Machinery and transport equipment	1.6	12.5
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	1.3	8.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1.4	8.2
Manufactured goods	1.2	7.4
Beverages and tobacco	0.6	6.2
Food and live animals	-0.4	5.4
Chemical products	0.0	4.9
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-1.5	-8.0
All groups	1.3	9.8



Our ageing population

Preliminary estimates of the Australian population by age as at June 1992 confirm that the population is continuing to age. The median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) increased by 1.6 years between June 1986 and June 1992 to 32.7 years. For the first time, there are more than 2 million people aged 65 years and over in the population.

Since 1971 there has been little growth (2%) in the number of children (aged less than 15 years) in the population. However, over the same period, the number of people of working age (15 to 64 years) has increased by 42 per cent and the number of aged persons (aged 65 years and over) has increased by 84 per cent.

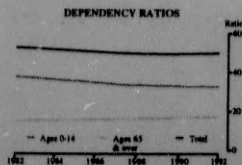
ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 30 JUNE 1992
'000

Age group	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
0 to 4	433.7	321.3	224.3	98.9	126.5	35.3	16.6	22.6	1,279.3
5 to 14	845.7	622.8	457.2	200.7	254.6	72.6	29.8	45.0	2,528.6
15 to 24	912.7	711.0	493.4	220.8	262.3	71.1	29.6	55.7	2,756.6
25 to 34	962.0	726.9	479.8	232.3	271.6	72.5	34.2	50.6	2,829.8
35 to 44	891.3	668.5	455.8	219.7	263.3	69.9	28.0	49.2	2,645.6
45 to 64	1,195.9	877.6	588.4	292.5	314.6	91.8	24.3	52.1	3,437.2
65 and over	717.5	520.7	331.6	191.6	164.2	56.5	4.6	18.9	2,005.6
18 and over	4,423.6	3,311.6	2,207.2	1,095.7	1,200.8	340.9	113.0	212.2	12,904.9
All ages	5,958.7	4,448.8	3,030.5	1,456.4	1,657.1	469.8	167.1	294.2	17,482.6

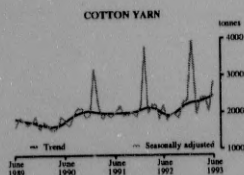
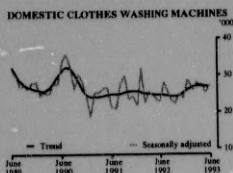
Declining mortality has had a major impact on the age group 80 and over. Between 1971 and 1992, the number of persons in this group more than doubled from 188,800 to 403,900. Further, there were twice as many females as males (267,700 compared with 136,200).

At 30 June 1992, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory were the only States or Territories with a median age less than 30 years (27.2 years and 29.7 years respectively). South Australia had the highest median age (33.9 years) followed by New South Wales (33.2 years), Victoria (32.8 years), Tasmania (32.8 years), Queensland (32.1 years) and Western Australia (31.9 years).

The long period of decline in the 'dependency ratio' (persons aged 0 to 14 years and persons aged 65 and over per 100 population aged 15 to 64) has been arrested. In 1991 the dependency ratio was 49.7. In 1992 the ratio was 49.8.



For further information, order the publication *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, States and Territories of Australia* (3201.0), or contact Glen Heyen on (06) 252 7416.



Manufacturing production in June

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-one with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

In the table below, fourteen items are showing an increase in trend over production levels twelve months earlier. Four of the five textile items recorded rises over June 1992 with cotton yarn production showing strong growth since its last trough in August 1992 while wool yarn continued a gradual fall in trend production evident since November 1992. Domestic clothes washing machine production has stabilised in recent months following a period of growth between November 1992 and January 1993 while television set production is continuing a rising trend from the last trough in December 1992.

The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the monthly publications.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, JUNE 1993

Product	Percentage change in trend	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cotton yarn	2.7	24.7
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	2.2	23.9
Electric motors	-4.1	21.7
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	3.5	14.3
Clay bricks	0.7	11.5
Portland cement	1.2	11.2
Woven man-made fibre fabric	0.6	9.8
Domestic clothes washing machines	-0.3	9.3
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	-2.8	8.1
Electricity	0.2	3.7
Textile floor coverings	-1.4	1.9
Beer	0.1	0.4
Chocolate based confectionery	0.6	0.1
Other confectionery	-0.7	0.3
Sulphuric acid; oleum	0.8	0.0
Cars and station wagons	-2.7	-0.5
Wool yarn	-1.4	-0.6
Gas available for issue through mains	0.2	-0.9
Cigarettes and tobacco	-2.2	-4.0
Television sets	2.2	-12.7
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-1.5	-29.1

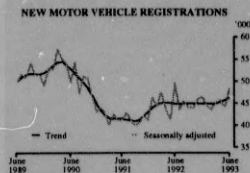
New vehicle trend up after a year of stagnation

The seasonally adjusted series for June 1993 rose by 9.3 per cent, brought about by a 19.0 per cent increase in unadjusted total new registrations (from 44,802 in May to 53,319 in June).

As a result, the trend estimate for the period April to June is showing some signs of growth following nearly a year of virtually no change in the series.

In unadjusted terms, registrations rose in all States and Territories. Queensland recorded the largest rise with 38.3 per cent and Tasmania the smallest with 9.0 per cent.

All vehicle types showed increases in registrations with passenger vehicles up 15.6 per cent and 'other' vehicles up 34.8 per cent. Of the latter group, light commercial vehicles rose by 36.9 per cent followed by articulated trucks with a 32.0 per cent increase.

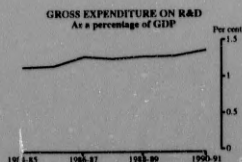
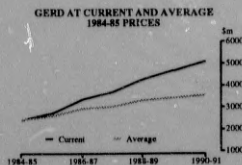


Expenditure on R&D increasing

Gross expenditure on research and experimental development (GERD) in Australia during 1990-91 was \$5,088 million, an increase of 20 per cent over that recorded for 1988-89.

At constant prices (average 1984-85 prices) this was still an increase of 7 per cent over the two years. However, the rate of growth has fallen from an annual rate of increase of 8 per cent between 1984-85 and 1988-89 to an annual rate of increase of only 3 per cent between 1988-89 and 1990-91.

Although GERD has now reached a record high of 1.36 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), from the table below it can be seen that the Australian ratio is still low compared with many other OECD countries.



Japan	3.07
USA	2.77
Germany	2.73
France	2.42
UK	2.22
Netherlands	2.06
Finland	1.87
Belgium	1.69
Canada	1.44
Austria	1.40
Australia	1.36
Italy	1.30
Iceland	1.03
Ireland	0.90

The business enterprises sector carried out 40 per cent (\$2,017 million) of the R&D. The higher education sector accounted for 27 per cent (\$1,351 million), Commonwealth government 20 per cent (\$1,040 million) and the State governments 12 per cent (\$611 million).

Continued ...

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The business enterprises sector's share of R&D expenditure increased steadily from 30 per cent in 1984-85 to 42 per cent in 1988-89 before falling back slightly to 40 per cent in 1990-91.

The type of research carried out varied from sector to sector. The higher education sector was mainly engaged in pure basic research (i.e. advancement of knowledge without necessarily looking for other benefits), the Commonwealth and State governments were predominantly working on applied research (i.e. with a specific application in view) and the business enterprises sector was mainly working on experimental development (i.e. creating new or improved products/processes).

The bulk of the funding for R&D came from the Commonwealth government, \$2,274 million (45%) and business enterprises \$2,012 million (40%). State governments provided \$541 million (11%) with private non-profit and other Australian sources funding \$194 million (4%) and \$66 million (1%) coming from overseas.

For further information, order the publication *Research and Experimental Development, All-Sector Summary, Australia (8112.0)*, or contact Derek Byars on (06) 252 5627.

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 10 August

July

- 28 Consumer Price Index, June 1993 (6401.0; \$11.70)
- 29 Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1993 (5301.0; \$16.30)
- Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, May 1993 Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.70)
- Building Approvals, Australia, June 1993 (8731.0; \$13.30)

August

- 3 Retail Trade, Australia, June 1993 (8501.0; \$10.70)
- 6 Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, June 1993 (5206.0; \$26.00)

Selected releases: 21 to 27 July

General

Northern Territory Business Indicators, July 1993 (1307.7; \$7.50)
Australian Capital Territory in Focus, 1993 (1307.8; \$19.50) (Previously: Australian Capital Territory Statistical Summary)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., May 1993 (3401.0; \$6.60)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, March Qtr 1993 (5646.0; \$10.70)

Labour statistics and Prices

The Labour Force, Aust., June 1993 (6203.0; \$16.30)
The Labour Force, Vic., May 1993 (6202.2; \$16.30)

Agriculture

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Aust., 1991-92 (7503.0; \$22.40)
Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, May 1993 (7204.3; \$5.10)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and Construction

Research and Experimental Development, Business Enterprises (Inter-year Survey), Aust., 1991-92 (8114.0; \$15.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	94,192	0.6	2.6
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b) (c)	May 93	\$m	-1,213	-1,537	8	-16
Balance on merchandise trade (b) (c)	"	"	181	-237	2	—
Balance on goods and services (b) (c)	"	"	-70	-427	13	—
Merchandise exports (c)	"	"	5,100	4,924	2	8
Merchandise imports (c)	"	"	-4,919	-5,161	-1	-17
Net foreign debt	31 Mar. 93	\$m	160,615	n.a.	-3.9	7.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	208,338	n.a.	-1.5	6.8
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	May 93	\$m	7,984	8,304	2.9	3.9
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	5,362	6,017	-7.0	6.3
New motor vehicle registrations	June 93	no.	53,319	48,255	9.3	-2.6
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	31,512	33,677	1.1	2.3
Dwelling unit approvals (c)	May 93	no.	14,866	14,010	-9.9	5.7
Building approvals (c)	"	\$m	2,117	1,853	-11.8	7.8
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	5,748	6,207	0.8	6.9
Prices						
Consumer price index (d)	Mar. qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	108.9	n.a.	0.9	1.2
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	May 93	1988-89 = 100.0	114.7	n.a.	0.3	2.1
Materials used in manufacturing industries	May 93	1984-85 = 100.0	124.5	n.a.	-0.2	1.7
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	June 93	'000	7,741.7	7,736.0	0.5	0.5
Participation rate †	"	%	62.5	62.8	0.8	-0.4
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.6	11.1	3.5	—
Job vacancies	May 93	'000	30.2	31.6	9.5	24.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.18	1.20	3.5	8.4
Estimated resident population	Dec. qtr 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Apr. 93	'000	226	241	-4.8	10.7
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	3,850	4,887	23.9	36.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time (c)	Feb. qtr 93	\$	593.70	n.a.	1.2	0.8
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	June 93	% per annum	5.25	n.a.	0.10	-1.15
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	7.35	n.a.	-0.35	-1.55
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	May 93	per \$A	0.6979	n.a.	-2	-8

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 29 July 1993. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 28 July 1993.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators

	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Mar. qtr 93	6.6	2.7	-14.0	2.2	31.5	1.0	n.a.	n.a.	3.2
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	May 93	-0.3	4.5	8.9	1.2	10.4	1.6	n.a.	9.4	3.2
New motor vehicle registrations†	June 93	-23.1	6.6	20.1	3.2	28.6	1.5	42.9	-16.5	-2.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	May 93	7.4	7.2	8.6	11.8	1.9	-2.0	-50.6	28.1	5.7
Value of total building work done	Mar. qtr 93	3.2	2.0	16.0	0.8	35.9	-0.5	-10.8	-6.2	7.5
Employed persons*	June 93	-0.9	-1.1	3.0	1.6	3.6	2.1	-8.5	4.6	0.5
Capital city consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Feb. qtr 93	-1.5	1.8	3.2	1.7	0.3	2.7	4.2	3.2	0.8
Population	Dec. qtr 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Mar. qtr 93	6.7	2.3	14.1	-2.5	2.1	10.5	6.1	14.6	7.0

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

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